



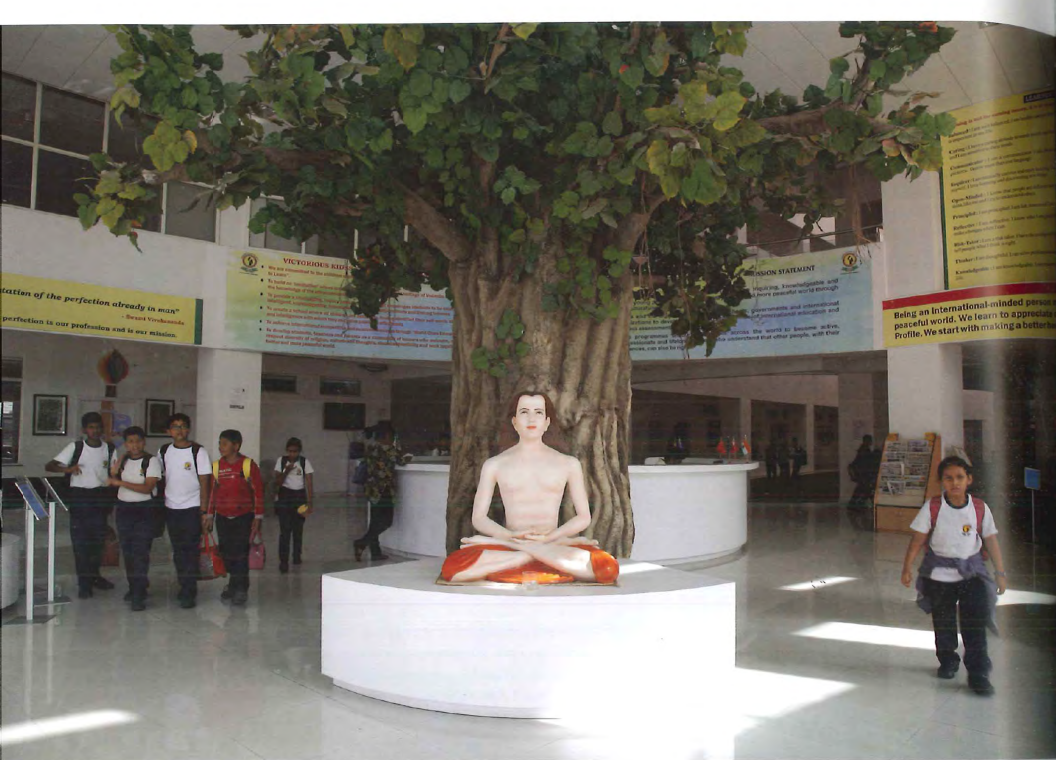
The design team at VK:i Interiors designs an IB school and initiates a new thought: School as a crucible of values- and design sensitivity... Educate a child. Create a responsible citizen of the world...

VK:i Interior is a new interior design consultancy and part of Vishwas Kulkarni & Associates (VK:a architecture)- an established multi-disciplinary architectural practice in Pune, India having more than 30 years of experience in the construction and real estate development sectors. VK:a has completed more than 200 projects in the Pune region and is currently working on many project in other locations in India. This team is led by **Ar. Hrishikesh Kulkarni** who has more than 12 years of experience in the field of interior designing and space planning and who has worked on prestigious projects in UK & India. Ar. Hrishikesh Kulkarni is a Director (Partner) at VK:a architecture. As a Lead Director for various projects he looks after design, delivery and providing expert technical guidance for making each project special. Hrishikesh studied at Academy of Architecture, Mumbai, and later did Masters in Environment & energy at the Architectural Association (AA) in London 2002-03. He specializes in performative architecture, energy efficient design, human comfort studies and built environmental simulations.

As Indians, we are incredibly concerned about the education that our children get; rarely has there been a topic that so consumes us, concerns us, and holds top priority. Tons has been written about the quality of education and children's own expectations when they go to school. Naturally, design shoulders much of the responsibility of grooming a child's early years, for it is obvious that his environment will affect him- positively if the school is well-designed and adversely if it is insensitively planned.

Today, institute design, and school designing in particular, is not only 'challenging', but also intriguing. It is all about responding with space in ways that are constantly setting new precedents. As our lifestyles evolve and pedagogy undergoes numerous upheavals, the classrooms have become more than 'rooms with benches'. The entire significance of 'schooling' - from the point of view of the student and teacher both- has witnessed a huge revolution. So, though eventually we all need our kids to be in classrooms 'with benches', the spatial, emotional, and physical requirements of a school have come under much soul searching and study. Happily, design and architecture have kept pace with this stimulus, treating it as a new and exciting field as well as an opportunity to directly affect- in a broad sense- a positive coaching journey.

Such was the mindset on both sides when VK:i interiors were approached to do the interior of Victorious Kidss Educares- an IB school located at Kharadi. It was a meet not without great symbolism. VK:i interiors is an offspring of VK:a architecture- a thirty-nine year old multi-specialty design firm, with solid architectural background. A design firm with such a strong legacy was being asked to design for a new school treading a completely novel kind of tutorship. The result has been a wonderful example of how interior design and vision-lifestyle can go hand-in-hand to engage society in a progressive, global outlook by caring for its most important members and setting an example in the process. Incidentally, Apoorva Kulkarni, who heads the VK:i interiors, was familiar with the philosophy of the school since her son is a student of Victorious Kids Educares. In any case, the interiors is an excellent example of how the dreams and aspirations of a thriving, robust society can be so fully satisfied when a design firm truly does justice to the requirements.



Entrance Foyer: The school believes in a blend of traditional Indian and modern Global wisdom. Visitors are greeted with the immensely symbolic, visual impression of the Bodhi Tree. It signifies the importance of 'enlightenment' in the student's life, with a suggestion that school becomes a tree that will groom him. This first impact is an important indicator of the institute's philosophy and a vital benchmark of design becoming a metaphor. The tree is made of Glass reinforced Fiber and is fixed around a column. The reception desk & parents waiting corner are also located here. Almost the whole school is visible from this point.

Victorious Kids Educares is an IB school with emphasis on inculcating the best of international and traditional Indian values. They had established a presence of sorts in the city, but had now acquired a large property with an attached playground developed by KP Builders. The new building was conducive to being an institute, with its large internal open courts, its hallways and corridors, and its generally sprawling nature. VK:i interiors was

approached for the Interiors of the school where-in the whole open shell was handed over to them and the job was to execute the scheme in less than 6 months. The firm has dealt with the overall look right from the entrance lobby to the smallest room in the school; there is a conscious impact of good interior design by combining materials, IB specifications, the mandatory requirements of children, and of course, the creative inputs that are

necessary. The entire interior was completed in an astounding four months. Time apart, even senior designers at VK:i admit this project to be one of the most landmark ones the office has done.

Design brief was directly related to the activities for children. The school curriculum is structured to encompass academic, extra-curricular, sports, spiritual, artistic, and music talents. There is also a swimming pool at the top floor.



Assembly Area: This huge indoor space is where the morning prayers are conducted, in addition to many functions, workshops, and events. The EPDM soft floor (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) is used as it gives a bouncy feel and reduces injuries due to fall. It is also waterproof, non-reflective, fire resistant and easy to clean. The entire volume of whole school can be appreciated from here.

Though an IB school needs to adhere to certain specifications, the designing has been more broadly viewed to include a certain level of warmth in its aesthetics that is aimed at the quintessential Indian comfort level.

The scope of interiors included the huge entrance lobby, offices, classrooms, halls, meeting rooms, and the two large central courts. An indoor play area measuring 37,500 Sq. Ft allows visibility and safety.

Spacious air-conditioned class rooms (even the smallest class measures around 630 Sq. Ft.) fitted out with modern teaching aids allows students to pursue classes with teacher - student ratio varying from 1:2 to 1:10 depending on the class. The Library is designed like an international hub of information with connectivity, a huge collection of books, and an ambiance that 'encourages' reading. The computer and science

laboratories are distinct in their interior detailing but still come across as pleasant areas to spend hours devoted to learning. Children coming to the school belong to the ages of 6 weeks to the 12th grade, and the interior obviously caters to the needs of each-in form as well as function.



Administration Desk: The neat, uncluttered, and spotless Admin. Desk is the main interface between the parents and the directors. It is one of the few spaces in school where fixed furniture is designed. The use of colors & textures imparts warmth.

Presidents cabin: President/ Founder Director Er Ghosh has a great role to play in the vision of the institute. This room thus performs an important function in the daily running of the school. The interior layout consisted of a minimum of fixed furniture and more of movable furniture for multipurpose use like a PTA or small gathering of visitors.



Play Area/Atrium: This is an indoor play area for smaller children, located in the courtyard so that a constant watch can be maintained. Play equipments is of tough plastic with no sharp edges and is anthropometrically suitable for small children. The floor is specially made of soft floor bounce- back tiles which gives a springy feel and helps in avoiding injuries. The pattern design makes it interesting for the kids to play innovative games.

Vice Presidents cabin: Vice President Mrs. Sharda Ghosh is the driving force of the school and oversees several aspects. The room has soothing and clear lighting with more use of white light, with flexible layout of furniture.





Conference Room: This room is for regular interaction between staff and management. The layout is flexible with movable modular tables. Seating is preference enabled, from conference, cluster, and other. The use of plain white color and sound- absorbent walls and ceilings help in communication and attention. Each desk has a network connection and electric point for laptop.

Addressing Area: This is an entrance space used by directors to address the teachers every morning and evening. The stack-able chairs occupy minimum space. Surface mounted pop-on lights with spun aluminum and opal acrylic casing are used with concealed lighting in suspended ceiling.



Library: The library is on two levels; one for primary & pre-primary students and other for secondary students. The layout again mostly consisted of minimum fixed furniture. The movable book shelves, movable and adjustable specially procured chairs and tables are an important aspect of all the spaces within the school. There are 9 columns in the library alluding to the 9 planets, with their symbols and colors. Suspended CFL lights are used to give uniform white light everywhere.

Creativity room: These are rooms designated with special purposes apart from regular class rooms. The specially procured tables, chairs etc. are modular and can be arranged in different layouts to achieve flexibility as per activity. Walls are kept free for students to display their creativity and expressions. Use of colors, shapes, textures is with the prime purpose of encouraging students to explore their creativity.





Music Room: The school gives high importance to developing overall personality of students in a holistic way by exposing them to all types of arts. Here the unique piano ceiling adds to the flavor of music room. Similar unique approach has gone in designing the Dance room, Arts room, Meditation room, Aero-modelling room, Electronic room etc.



Biology Lab



Chemistry Lab



Physics Lab



Computer Lab



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